

List of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An apparatus for interfacing customer premise equipment with a telephone network, the apparatus comprising:

an interface within the customer premise equipment that is coupled to the telephone network, the interface comprising a current source, wherein the current source provides a constant current, drawn from the telephone network, to the customer premise equipment when a line impedance of the telephone network varies in a predetermined range when the customer premise equipment is off-hook; and

a tip conductor and a ring conductor, both the tip ~~line~~ conductor and the ring conductors are coupled to the interface.

Claim 2 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the line impedance of the telephone network is defined by an EWTIA-496-A interface standard.

Claim 3 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the telephone network is a Plain Old Telephone System (POTS) network.

Claim 4 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the current source includes a FET.

Claim 5 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the constant current is approximately 30mA.

Claim 6 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the telephone network is a PBX system.

Claim 7 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an off-hook relay.

Claim 8 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the current source includes a low pass filter.

Claim 9 (currently amended): An apparatus at a customer premise that is coupled to a telephone network, the apparatus comprising:

a receiver;

an interface coupled to the receiver and the telephone network; wherein the interface ~~comprising~~ comprises a current source, wherein the current source provides a constant current, drawn from the telephone network, to the receiver when a line impedance of the telephone network varies in a predetermining range when the customer premise equipment is off-hook; and

a tip conductor and a ring conductor; both the tip conductor and the ring conductor are coupled to the interface.

Claim 10 (original): The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the current source includes a FET.

Claim 11 (original): The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the telephone network is a Plain Old Telephone Service network.

Claim 12 (original): The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the line impedance of the telephone network is defined by an EWTIA-496-A interface standard.

Claim 13 (original): The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a coder/decoder.

Claim 14 (original): The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the receiver is a hybrid receiver.

Claim 15 (original): The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the telephone network is a PBX system.

Claim 16 (original): The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the constant current is approximately 30mA.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A method of providing a constant current to an apparatus coupled to a telephone network, the method comprising the steps of:

- connecting the apparatus at the customer premise to a tip conductor and a ring conductor;
- taking the apparatus off-hook; and
- sinking a constant DC bias current, drawn from the telephone network, while off -hook,

where the DC bias current is independent of a load ~~seen~~ on the tip conductor and the ring conductors.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 17, wherein the telephone network is a Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) network.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 17, wherein the telephone network is a PBX System.

Claim 20 (original): The method of claim 17, wherein the DC bias current is approximately 30mA.

Claim 21 (new): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the current source includes:

- a driver having a non-inverting input, an inverting input and an output;
- a divider for dividing a first voltage and providing a second voltage to the non-inverting input; and

wherein the driver derives the output , such that the inverting input is at substantially the second voltage.

Claim 22 (new): The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the current source includes:

- a driver having a non-inverting input, an inverting input and an output;

a divider for dividing a first voltage and providing a second voltage to the non-inverting input; and

wherein the driver derives the output , such that the inverting input is at substantially the second voltage.